

Message Text

PAGE 01 DACCA 00943 241022Z

10

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IO-11 TRSE-00 /074 W
----- 104562

R 240850Z FEB 76 ZFF 5 RUHQHQA
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9785
INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0943

CINPAC ROR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJ: BDG STATEMENT ON FARAKKA

REF: A) DACCA 0921 (NOTAL); B) NEW DELHI 2568

1. AS WERE TOLD IT WOULD, THE BDG LAST NIGHT (FEBRUARY 23) RELEASED A STATEMENT CONTENDING THAT INDIA'S "UNILATERAL" WITHDRAWAL OF GANGES WATERS "MILITATES AGAINST RESUMPTION OF MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE" AND REGRETTED THAT INDIAN WAS SEEKING TO "ARTIFICALLY RESTRICT DISCUSSION ON THE OPERATION OF THE FARAKKA BARRAGE TO THE SO-CALLED LEAN PERIOD." CAST IN THE FORM OF AN INTERVIEW OF A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BY BSS, THE LOCAL WIRE SERVICE, THE STATEMENT DOMINATED RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWS LAST NIGHT AND ALL NEWSPAPERS TODAY. THE "INTERVIEW" ELABORATES ON THE BDG POSITION AS SET FORTH BY FOREIGN SECRETARY IN REF A.

2. EXPRESSING SURPRISE AT THE INDIAN SPOKESMAN INSISTENCE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 00943 241022Z

ON UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL (REF B), THE BANGLADESH SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THIS WAS CONTRARY TO "THE AGREEMENT, DECLARATION, AND JOINT STATEMENTS" THAT OPERATION OF THE BARRAGE WOULD BE SUBJECT OF "CLOSE AND CONTINUING" DISCUSSIONS. AS

FAR BACK AS JUNE 2, 1975, HE SAID, THE BDG AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL HAS ASKED THE GOI NOT TO "ENCROACH UPON THE RATE OF DISCHARGE OF THE GANGES FLOW THAT PASSED DOWN THE FARAKKA BARRAGE TO BANGLADESH ON THE 31ST MAY BY ANY ACTION ON THEIR PART." AS FOR RESTRICTING DISCUSSION TO THE LEAN PERIOD, THE SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY SAID THAT IN A NOTE OF FEBRUARY 20 TO THE GOI THE BDG POINTED OUT THAT "SUCH ARTIFICIAL RESTRAINTS" ON THE DISCUSSIONS ASRE "AT VARIANCE WITH THE WHOLE COURSE OF EARLIER EXCHANGES, BOTH FORMAL AND INFORMAL."

3. THE SPOKESMAN CLAIMED THAT INDIA IS SUBJECTING BANGLADESH TO PRECONDITIONS BY 1) CREATING "UNNATURAL PHYSICAL (RIVER) CONDITIONS" THROUGH FARAKKA WITHDRAWALS, AND 2) SEEKING TO RESTRICT ALL DISCUSSIONS TO THE MID-MARCH TO MID-MAY PERIOD. BANGLADESH, HE SAID, NEVER CONFINED THE DISCUSSIONS TO ANY PARTICULAR PERIOD BECAUSE THE LEAN PERIOD WAS RELATED TO "ACTUAL FLOW CONDITIONS RATHER THAN TO ANY CALENDAR MONTHS." THUS THE BDG CONSIDERS THAT THE LEAN SEASON OF THE GANGES UNDER NORMAL FLOW CONDITIONS EXISTS FROM NOVEMBER TO MAY. WITH THE FARAKKA WITHDRAWALS, HE SAID, "THE ENTIRE NORMAL LEAN SEASON HAS BECOME THE CRITICAL PERIOD FOR BANGLADESH."

4. CITING THE MAY 1974 JOINT DECLARATION OF THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS, THE SPOKESMAN SAID "IT IS CLEAR THAT A TREATY PROVIDING FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE ALLOCATION OF THE GANGES WATERS IS IMPERATIVE BEFORE ANY WATER CAN BE WITHDRAWN AT FARAKKA."

5. THE BSS STORY STATES THAT INDIA APPEARS TO BE UNWILLING TO DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN UPPER RIPARIAN. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT THE BANGLADESH STAND IS "A VERY REASONABLE ONE, CONFORMING ...WITH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE WHICH MAKES IT OBLIGATORY ON ALL PARTIES CONCERNED TO SUSPEND UNILATERAL ACTION TO ENABLE MEANINGFUL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SOVEREIGN NATIONS."
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 00943 241022Z

6. DACCA PRESS TODAY ALSO REPORTED FOR THE FIRST TIME THE FEBRUARY 18 STATEMENT OF THE INDIAN SPOKESMAN. A FAIRLY FULL TREATMENT OF HIS REMARKS WAS CARRIED AS A FOLLOW UP ARTICLE.
BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, PFOR, WATER DIVERSION, WATER RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DACCA00943
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760068-0913
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197602103/baaaesau.tel
Line Count: 103
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BDG STATEMENT ON FARAKKA
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
To: STATE INFO CALCUTTA
ISLAMABAD
NEW DELHI
CINCPAC
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

